

### 1934 Senatorial Campaign.

Either the latter part of January or early in February, 1934, it seems to me it was the 2nd of February, Ralph and I received a telephone call early in the morning from Sen. Bennett C. Clark, who was in St. Louis. He asked if we could meet him at the American Hotel in St. Louis that night, we agreed to be there and hurriedly packed and drove to St. Louis. When we arrived at the American Hotel we found Senator Clark and Congressman J. L. (Tuck) Milligan, who lived in Richmond, Missouri, and was the Representative from that district.

Sen. Clark had been a Colonel in the 140th Infantry during War I and Milligan had been a Captain in the same regiment and had recommended Ralph for a D. S. C., in the Argonne, the three had kept up a very close friendship all through the years and in 1932, Milligan, Ralph and myself had worked hard to help elect Clark to the Senate.

We had no idea before we left Kansas City what Sen Clark wanted to see us about as he gave us no inkling of it while talking on the phone. After we got there he and Milligan told us that Milligan was going to file for the U. S. Senate, to run against Roscoe Patterson, a Republican from Springfield, provided Milligan got the nomination. At that time no other Democrat had filed, they asked Ralph and I if we would head up the Milligan campaign in the Western half of the State and open a headquarters in Kansas City. Since no one else had filed and due to the long friendship of Clark, Milligan and Ralph, we agreed to take on the job.

On our return to Kansas City we got in touch with Col. Tom Bourke, who owned and operated the old Baltimore Hotel and who had also served in War I with them, and asked him for office space in the hotel. Col. Bourke gave us a suite of rooms on the mezzanine of the hotel and we got a lot of former war buddies of all of the men together and got the campaign started.

Sometime later, Rep. John J. Cochran of St. Louis, who had been in the House since 1926 decided to file for the place, he had the support of Wm. Igoe, Police Commissioner of St. Louis, and quite a number of other prominent Democrats in St. Louis.

Milligan was being supported by Mayor Bernard Dickmann of St. Louis, and former Senator Harry Hawes of St. Louis. John Garner, who was then Vice President, and Jim Farley, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, both stated that Milligan would make a fine addition to the U. S. Senate.

At that time Harry S. Truman was presiding judge of the Jackson County Court, but for some reason he could not run to succeed himself. He had stated on numerous occasions he would like to run for Congress in the new 4th Congressional District.

In 1932 the State had been re-districted and all of the Congressmen had to run at large, prior to that time there had only been one district for Jackson County, but since it had grown so much it was divided into two districts.

T. J. Pendergast, who was known as the "Boss" of Kansas City and Jackson County politics, decided he wanted a candidate for Senator and began looking for some one to run, as he had been pretty successful in naming the Congressmen in the 1932 campaign and was getting power hungry. He first tried to get Joseph B. Shannon, a faction leader in Kansas City, but he refused to run. Then he tried to get Charles M. Howell, who had run in 1932 and been defeated by Clark. Howell did not want to take a chance on being defeated again. Ralph A. Lozier, from Central Missouri, and who was a Congressman, wanted to run, but Pendergast did not want to support him. Pendergast tried to get James P. Aylward, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, to run, but he refused. Roy McKittrick, Attorney General, wanted to run, but again

Pendergast refused to take him. Finally he decided his best bet was to run Harry Truman, he had a good record for honesty and had done a good job as Presiding Judge. While he had been supported by the Pendergast faction, he had never been involved in any of their evil machinations, he did not want to run, but finally let them persuade him to enter the primary.

On the morning of Mary 14, 1934, there was an announcement in the Kansas City Times that Harry Truman was going to make a speech at Sedalia, Missouri, at 7:30 that evening and would announce his candidacy for U. S. Senator. Ralph was some place in northern Missouri and I immediately called him on the phone and told him what was going to happen and for him to get home as quick as he could in order that we could go to Sedalia and talk to Harry before he made his announcement, as we did not want him to be mad at us.

Ralph got home a little before five that afternoon, I was ready to go and we left without getting dinner or anything, we drove to Sedalia in one hour flat, which was pretty fast for those days, but we wanted to be sure and get to talk to Harry before he made his talk. We got into Sedalia and found he was at the St. Francis Hotel, I believe that was the name of it, and we immediately went to his rooms and told him we wanted to talk to him. The three of us went into a bedroom and had a talk, we explained to him that we had been committed to Milligan since February and there was no way we could get out of it, but that we did not want any hard feeling between the three of us and we would guarantee that no speaker going out of the Milligan headquarters would make any statements about him. He said he understood the situation and that it would make no difference, he knew the close relationship between Clark, Milligan and Ralph and said he appreciated our coming down to talk to him before he made his announcement.

We kept our word about no speakers making any derogatory statements about Truman, however, we did not muzzle the speakers in taking after Pendergast and some of his henchmen, one of whom was John Lazzia, who had overthrown Mike Ross as "Boss" in the north end of Kansas City. Pendergast used every trick in the book and Fred Canfil, who later became United States Marshal after Harry became President, was going all over the State and always carried a small black bag, he became known as the "Bag-man" for the Pendergast faction and was supposed to be paying off to various people to to switch to Truman.

Ralph and I both spent a great deal of our time in the Milligan Headquarters, we did not make any speeches, although Ralph did a lot of traveling through the State trying to line up support, one handicap we had was money, as it was during the height of the depression, but we did the best we could with what we had to work with. On the day of the election we went and voted early, Ralph went on down to the headquarters and I remained at home until late in the day calling people at various places trying to get out the vote. The Pendergast forces used scare tactics and on at least five times during the day I saw a big black car, with no license plates, with four Italians in it and they had two machine guns in their laps with no effort to hide them, they did not bother me, but at one voting precinct on Swope Parkway a policeman was killed, who had tried to stop a man from voting, as the man who was registered under the name had voted earlier in the day.

The only statement I rember Ralph making about the election that could have made any difference to Harry, was that James P. Aylward, who headed the Truman campaign, had a slush fund of over \$500,000.00 and it was hard to compete with anything like that.

When the votes were counted some precincts showed up with more votes for Truman than

they had registered, in making some checks they found where names had been taken from tombstones and a lot of people had voted from vacant lots and things of that kind,

After we saw we were beaten Ralph called Harry and congratulated him and told him we would do all we could for him in the general election. About two or three days after the final count Ralph received a letter from Harry, which was very vitriolic and said if his name had not been Truman we would not have gotten the vote we did. It so happened that Ralph was much better known throughout the State before this election than Harry was. Ralph got very angry when he received this letter and wanted to answer it, but I refused to let him do so. I told him I was sure that Harry Truman was not the author of the letter and he would regret it soon enough, but during the general election we did not do anything to help and merely voted when the time came.

For about two years Ralph and Harry did not speak to each other and made it a point to avoid one another, finally, the American Legion were having some kind of a big meeting in Nevada, Missouri, and both of them were asked to speak before the meeting. Ralph said he would not go because Harry would be there, I told him he was acting childish and wanted him to go and to meet Harry Truman face to face and speak to him, as the feud had been going on long enough. Ralph finally decided to go and Bennett Clark got Harry and Ralph in his room and told them it was time to quit acting like the had been doing and to straighten up and act like men. Harry finally said he was sorry he had written the letter, they shook hands and from then on I believe they became closer together than they had ever been, in fact I think as the years went on they became closer than Harry and his brother Vivian.

(Signed)

Olive L. Truman (Mrs. R. E.)

9 June 1964.